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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues Order to Sam's Mobile Home Park in Clovis for High Nitrate Levels in Drinking Water

(Clovis, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today issued a Public Notification Order to Sam's Mobile Home Park in Clovis for violations of state Drinking Water Regulations. Beginning in December of 2002, one of the wells at the water system has exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate in drinking water.

Along with the notification, Sam's Mobile Home Park is to immediately provide bottled water of acceptable quality to pregnant customers and all families with children under the age of six, notify all customers of the nitrate MCL, and conduct a feasibility study to determine what changes are needed to provide water within acceptable standards. Failure to comply with the requirement of the order may result in civil penalties.

Sam's Mobile Home Park provides piped drinking water to approximately 100 consumers at the park.

Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if not given treatment, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and a blue or gray coloring of the skin (often referred to as "blue baby syndrome"). Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. Although infants under six months are at greatest risk, pregnant and nursing women and children under eight years of age should limit their intake of tap water until nitrate levels decrease. If symptoms occur, consumers of the water system should seek medical attention immediately.

Consumers of Sam's Mobile Home Park **SHOULD NOT BOIL** their water. Boiling will increase the level of nitrates in the water. Bottled water or other water from an approved water source should be used until further notice.

For additional information, contact Lisa Brown, Hydrologist, NMED DWB at (505) 762-3728, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314

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